

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 12 through 18 with the following amended paragraph:

A¹ The guide support structure 42 and the web guide base 44 are, in certain embodiments, made from aluminum, and the T-connectors 47 are made from steel. The bolt 62, the annular dovetail nut 64, and the threaded dovetail nut 66 of the bolt/dovetail nut assemblies 52 are also made from steel in some embodiments. To further minimize friction between the web 28 and the web guide 18, the outer surface of the web guide 18 is coated with a low friction material 78, such as, for example, Teflon polytetrafluorethylene or any other suitable material.

Replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 20 through 28 with the following amended paragraph:

A² In certain applications, the vacuum generator 80 is turned off and the platen 82 is removed so that the web 28 bridges a gap or trough 96 as the web moves through the printing section 38. This allows excess ink to fall into a cavity or trough ~~[[97]]~~ 96 through the web to prevent excess ink buildup and smearing underneath the web 28. An absorber 98 located at the bottom of the trough ~~[[97]]~~ 96 collects the excess ink in such applications. Additionally or alternatively, a drain plug can be located at the bottom of the trough to drain the excess ink. Note that when the vacuum generator 80 is in use and the platen 82 is in place, portions of the trough ~~[[97]]~~ 96 can be closed off with a block or any other suitable device to draw the vacuum only across the width of the web.